

REMARKS

The applicants propose amending claims 11, 29, 30, 40, 44, 45, 51, 56, 59, 61 and 62 to improve form and canceling claims 52, 55, 58 and 60 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 61 and 62 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

The applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 1-10 and 32-39 have been allowed and that claims 14-21 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Support for the amendments to claims 11, 29, 30, 40, 44, 45 and 51 can be found at, for example, col. 7, lines 43-58 of Cardy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,109; hereinafter the '109 patent). The remaining amendments to claims 56, 59, 61 and 62 have been made to maintain proper dependency based on the various canceled claims and for consistency with the amended claims. For the Examiner's convenience, a marked-up copy of the Amendment showing the current changes (with respect to the previous Amendment filed August 24, 2006) to the claims is provided as an appendix to this Amendment.

Claims 11-13, 22-24, 26-31, 40-46 and 51-62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Christie et al. (U.S. Patent 6,181,703; hereinafter Christie). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 recites an apparatus comprising switch intelligence. Claim 11, amended as proposed, recites that the switch intelligence is configured to receive notification of a facility related event associated with a call from a switch fabric, wherein the switch

intelligence is implemented in a separate network element from a network element implementing the switch fabric. Portions of this feature were previously recited in claim 55. Claim 11, as amended, also recites that the switch intelligence is configured to execute a call state machine, the call state machine being responsive to the notification of the facility related event and representing processing of the call as at least one call segment, wherein the at least one call segment corresponds to a call half.

The Final Office Action states that the signaling processor/origination manager 522 of Christie is equivalent to the claimed switch intelligence (Final Office Action – page 3). The Final Office Action further states that the signaling processor/origination manager 522 of Christie is configured to receive notification of an event associated with a call from a switch fabric and points to col. 5, lines 26-39, col. 11, lines 1-10, col. 15, lines 10-35 and col. 6, lines 45-46 for support (Final Office Action – page 3). As to the feature in amended claim 11 that was previously recited in claim 55 (i.e., the event comprises a facility related event), the Final Office Action states that Christie discloses this feature and points to col. 11, lines 30-35 and col. 15, lines 47-54 (Final Office Action – page 9). The applicants respectfully disagree.

Initially, the applicants note that the term “facility related event,” as the term is conventionally used in this art and consistent with its use in the present application, refers to raw or unprocessed events associated with a user and/or user activity at a telephone device/terminal device. The present application gives a few examples of facility related events, such as on-hook, off-hook and wink (See the ‘109 patent at col. 7, lines 50-52). These particular facility related events are exemplary only.

Now returning to the rejection, Christie at col. 5, lines 26-39 discloses that signaling processor 110 of Fig. 1 processes call set up signaling, such as verifying the dialed number, validating the caller, controlling an echo canceller, generating billing information, selecting connections for the call and generating signaling incorporating the pertinent information to complete the call. This portion of Christie does not disclose or suggest that signaling processor 110 is configured to “receive notification of a facility related event associated with a call from a switch fabric,” as recited in amended claim 11.

Christie at col. 5, lines 26-39 discloses that processor 110 processes call set up signaling (received from user 115), such as verifying the dialed number, validating the caller, controlling an echo canceller, generating billing information, selecting connections for the call and generating signaling incorporating the pertinent information to complete the call. None of the call set up signaling received by processor 110, however, is equivalent to “a facility related event,” as required by amended claim 11. In contrast, this call set up signaling received by signaling processor 110 is processed signaling messages. In other words, all of the call set up signaling received by signaling processor 110 is data that is already processed and cannot be fairly construed to be equivalent to a facility related event. That is, user 115 of Christie, which may include a local exchange carrier (LEC) switch (See Christie at col. 4, lines 42-45) has already taken facility related events and generated signaling information for processing by signaling processor 110.

Christie at col. 11, lines 1-10 discloses that call center 521 receives call set up messages from the platform handler and that ISUP call set up is initiated with the IAM. This portion of Christie also discloses that when call center 521 receives an IAM, it creates an instance of an origination manager process with the data defined by the

information in the IAM. This portion of Christie further discloses that origination manager 522 represents any of the origination manager processes spawned by call center 521. This portion of Christie, however, does not disclose or suggest that origination manager 522 is configured to receive notification of a facility related event, as required by claim 11. In contrast, this portion of Christie merely discloses that a message handler 520 may include an origination manager 522.

Christie at col. 15, lines 10-35 discloses that when an initial address message (IAM) for a call is received, the call center creates an instance of origination manager 522 and begins call processing. Call processing may include performing service discrimination and validating the call. An IAM message, as is known in this art, is a conventional SS7 message that includes information such as the initiating switch, the destination switch, the calling and called numbers, etc. An IAM message cannot be fairly construed to be equivalent to a facility related event, as required by claim 11. In addition, Christie provides no teaching or suggestion that a conventional IAM message can convey a facility related event, can be modified to include a facility related event or is sent in response to a facility related event. For example, there is nothing in Christie that contradicts conventional SS7 signaling. In conventional SS7 signaling, an IAM message conveys already processed information, such as called number information processed by a local switch, such as user 115 in Christie (which as discussed above, may include an LEC switch; see Christie – col. 4, lines 42-45).

This lack of disclosure regarding a facility related event being included in a conventional SS7 signaling is also evidenced by the exemplary IAM message content

described at columns 17-19 of Christie. None of the fields in the exemplary IAM message of Christie include a facility related event.

Christie at col. 6, lines 45-56 discloses that ATM switch 225 has broadband ISUP (B-ISUP) logic which supports basic call processing to control the broadband switch fabric. This portion of Christie also discloses that a few examples of B-ISUP information are the dialed number and caller's number and that this information may be carried by an IAM. Once again, this portion of Christie does not disclose or suggest that signaling processor (signaling processor 310 in this case) or origination manager 522 is configured to receive notification of a facility related event, as required by amended claim 11. In contrast, this portion of Christie merely discloses that an ATM switch 225 supports basic call processing.

Therefore, none of the portions of Christie pointed to at page 3 of the Final Office Action disclose or suggest that signaling processor/origination manager 522 is configured to receive notification of a facility related event associated with a call from a switch fabric, as required by amended claim 11.

The other portions of Christie that were relied upon with respect to previous claim 55 to allegedly disclose that the notification received by the signaling processor/origination manager 522 in Christie comprises a facility related event (i.e., Christie at col. 11, lines 30-35 and col. 15, lines 47-54) also do not disclose or suggest this feature.

For example, Christie at col. 11, lines 30-35 discloses that origination manager 522 executes a basic call state model and that origination manager 522 processes the IAM through each point in call until a detection point is encountered. This portion of Christie,

however, does not disclose that origination manager 522 is configured to receive a facility related event, as required by amended claim 11. An IAM message, as is known in this art, is a conventional SS7 message that includes information such as the initiating switch, the destination switch, the calling and called numbers, etc. An IAM message cannot be fairly construed to be equivalent to a facility related event, as required by claim 11. As further discussed above, nothing in Christie can be fairly construed to disclose or suggest modifying a conventional IAM message to include or convey a facility related event.

Christie at col. 15, lines 47-54 discloses that if a call is authorized, the services identified are checked to determine if the call can be routed. If no additional services are required, the dialed number is translated into a route instruction. If additional services are required, processing continues by analyzing the call information to apply the particular services. This portion of Christie does not disclose or suggest that signaling processor/origination manager 522 receives a facility related event from a switch fabric, as required by claim 11. In contrast, this portion of Christie merely discloses IAM call processing that includes performing an authorization determination, followed by analyzing for additional services.

Therefore, none of the portions of Christie referenced in the Office Action, or any other portions of Christie, can be fairly construed to disclose or suggest a switch intelligence (implemented in a separate network element from a network element implementing the switch fabric) configured to receive notification of a facility related event associated with a call from a switch fabric, as required by amended claim 11.

Since Christie does not disclose switch intelligence configured to receive notification of a facility related event associated with a call from a switch fabric, Christie cannot further disclose or suggest switch intelligence configured to execute a call state machine that is responsive to the notification of the facility related event, as further required by amended claim 11.

For at least these reasons, Christie does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 11 are respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 13 and 56 depend from claim 11 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 11 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 12, 13 and 56 are respectfully requested.

In addition, these claims recite additional features not disclosed by Christie. For example, claim 56 recites that the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink. The Final Office Action states that Christie discloses this feature and points to col. 15, lines 47-54 for support (Final Office Action – page 10). The applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Christie at col. 15, lines 47-54 discloses IAM call processing that includes performing an authorization determination, followed by analyzing for additional services. This portion of Christie does not disclose or suggest that a switch intelligence receives a facility related event that includes at least one of on-hook, ~~off-~~hook or wink, as required by claim 56. In fact, Christie does not even mention any of these events. In addition, as discussed above, Christie provides no teaching or suggestion that an IAM message conveys a facility related event or can be modified to include a

facility related event, much less any of the particularly recited facility related events recited in claim 56. Christie merely discloses conventional IAM signaling in which the IAM message includes already processed information, as evidenced by Christie at columns 17-19.

For at least these additional reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 56 are respectfully requested.

Claim 22 recites an apparatus comprising switch intelligence for providing control functions to at least one switch fabric. Claim 22 recites that the switch intelligence comprises processing logic configured to receive information from the at least one switch fabric, the information including a facility related event associated with a call. The Final Office Action states that Christie discloses this feature and points to col. 5, lines 26-39 and col. 15, lines 10-35 for support (Final Office Action – page 4).

For reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 11, the applicants respectfully assert that signaling processor/origination manager 522 of Christie does not receive a facility related event associated with a call, as required by claim 22.

For at least these reasons, Christie does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 22. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 22 are respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 24, 26-28 and 57 depend on claim 22 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 22 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 23, 24, 26-28 and 57 are respectfully requested.

In addition, these claims recite additional features not disclosed by Christie. For example, claim 57 recites that the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook,

off-hook or wink. Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 56, Christie does not disclose or suggest this feature.

For at least these additional reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 57 are respectfully requested.

Claim 29, as amended, recites that the apparatus comprises means for receiving switch-fabric communications from a switch-fabric, the switch-fabric communications including a facility related event associated with a call. Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, Christie does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 29 are respectfully requested.

Claim 59 depends on claim 29 and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 29 is allowable. In addition, claim 59 recites that the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink. Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 56, Christie does not disclose or suggest this feature.

For at least these additional reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 59 are respectfully requested.

Claim 30 recites an apparatus comprising means for processing the switch fabric communications comprising facility related event information associated with a call. Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, Christie does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 30 are respectfully requested.

Claim 31 depends from claim 30 and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 30 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 31 are respectfully requested.

Claim 40, as amended, recites that the processing logic is configured to receive notification information comprising a facility related event associated with a call from the switch fabric network element. Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, Christie does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 40 are respectfully requested.

Claims 41-43 and 61 depend from claim 40 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 40 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 41-43 and 61 are respectfully requested.

In addition, claim 61 recites that the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink. Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 56, Christie does not disclose or suggest this feature.

For at least these additional reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 61 are respectfully requested.

Claim 44 recites an apparatus comprising a feature processor and switch intelligence. Claim 44, as amended, recites that the switch intelligence is configured to receive facility related event data associated with a call from a switch fabric and perform call half processing associated with at least one party to the call in response to the facility related event data and in accordance with a call model.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, Christie does not disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 44 are respectfully requested.

Claim 45, as amended, recites that the apparatus comprises logic for processing a facility related event received from the switch fabric in accordance with a call model and

logic for performing call half processing for at least one party involved in the call in response to the facility related event and in accordance with the call model.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, Christie does not disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 45 are respectfully requested.

Claims 46 and 62 depend from claim 45 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 45 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 46 and 62 are respectfully requested.

In addition, claim 62 recites that the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink. Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 56, Christie does not disclose or suggest this feature.

For at least this additional reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 62 are respectfully requested.

Claim 51, as amended, recites an apparatus comprising logic configured to receive information from a switch fabric that received a request for making a call, the information comprising a facility related event. Claim 51, as amended, also recites logic configured to perform call half processing for at least a first party or a second party associated with the call in response to the facility related event and in accordance with a call model.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, Christie does not disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 51 are respectfully requested.

Claims 52-54 are dependent on claim 51 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 51 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 52-54 are respectfully requested.

Claims 47-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by La Porta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,434,852; hereinafter La Porta). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 47 recites a call completion device for providing bearer functions. Claim 47 recites that the call completion device is configured to forward a facility related event associated with a call to the switch intelligence. The Office Action states that La Porta discloses this latter feature and points to col. 7, lines 11-25 for support (Final Office Action – page 10). The applicants respectfully disagree.

La Porta at col. 7, lines 11-25 discloses that connection server 504 provides bearer services with capabilities to add, drop or modify a connection through switches 508 and 510. La Porta also discloses that when connection server 504 has selected routes for the connections, it invokes the services of channel servers 506/511 to establish the virtual channel links (La Porta – col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 1). La Porta further discloses that connection server 504 returns a result message to call server 502 indicating that the requested connections have been established (La Porta – col. 8, lines 1-9).

La Porta, however, does not disclose or suggest that a call completion device (presumably one of switches 508 or 510 and/or one of channel servers 506 or 511) forwards a facility related event associated with a call to call server 502 or connection server 504, as would be required by claim 47.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 47. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 47 are respectfully requested.

Claims 48-50 depend from claim 47 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 47 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 48-50 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and the timely allowance of this application. In the event that the application is not believed to be in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment since the amendment merely amends some of the independent claims to include features similar to those recited in previously presented dependent claims. In addition, in the event that the application is not believed to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' representative at the number shown below to expedite prosecution of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Appendix showing
current changes to claims

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APPENDIX

MARKED UP CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES MADE WITH
RESPECT TO PREVIOUS AMENDMENT FILED AUGUST 24, 2006

1. (previously presented) An apparatus in a telecommunications system,
comprising:

a switch intelligence which provides control functions for a switch fabric, said
switch intelligence being logically separated from said switch fabric and being
implemented in a separate network element from said switch fabric, the switch
intelligence being configured to:

process information received from the switch fabric, the information
comprising a facility related event associated with a call,

maintain a call state associated with completing the call in accordance
with a call model, the call model indicating how the information will be processed,

identify at least one point in call associated with completing the call, and

forward a request for a telecommunications function in response to the
identified at least one point in call;

a switch fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said
switch fabric and said switch intelligence for communications involving said switch
fabric and interfacing to said switch intelligence with a uniform application program
interface, wherein the normalized interface comprises any one of a plurality of vendor-
specific interfaces associated with the switch fabric; and

a feature processor, said feature processor configured to:

receive the request for the telecommunications function, and

execute the telecommunications function in response to the received request.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said switch intelligence comprises:

facility service logic configured to represent bearer and signaling facilities of a party to the call, for interacting with said switch fabric proxy service to communicate with said switch fabric, the facility service logic configured to receive the facility related event and perform protocol processing on the information received from the switch fabric, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of an off-hook indication, an on-hook indication or a wink.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

connection manager logic configured to forward connection information to the switch fabric, the connection information instructing the switch to establish physical connections to complete the call.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said switch intelligence comprises:

call segment logic configured to:

represent a status of at least two call halves associated with completing the call in accordance with the call model, and

perform call processing for each of the at least two call halves.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said switch intelligence comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said switch intelligence for modifying said call model without modifying the switch fabric.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said call segment logic, for modifying said call model.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said facility service logic for creating new facility models.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said call segment logic, for creating new call models.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between a switch fabric and a switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric by interfacing to said switch fabric with any one of a plurality of application programming interfaces, wherein the switch fabric and the switch intelligence are implemented in separate network elements; and

the switch intelligence, the switch intelligence being configured to:

receive information from the switch fabric,

perform call processing in accordance with a call model using the received information,

maintain a status of at least two call halves associated with completing the call in accordance with the call model, and

direct the switch fabric to make physical connections for each of the at least two call halves to complete the call.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said plurality of application programming interfaces is at least one of vendor-specific or switch-fabric-specific.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

switch intelligence configured to:

receive notification of ~~[[an]]~~ a facility related event associated with a call from a switch fabric, wherein the switch intelligence is implemented in a separate network element from a network element implementing the switch fabric,

execute a call state machine, the call state machine being responsive to the notification of the facility related event and representing processing of the call as at least one call segment, wherein the at least one call segment corresponds to a call half,

provide an association between the at least one call segment and at least one physical device associated with completing the call, and

provide connection information to the switch fabric based on the association.

12. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said network element implementing the switch intelligence is physically separated from said network element implementing the switch fabric and is coupled to the network element implementing the switch fabric via a communications network.

13. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the network element implementing said switch intelligence is logically separated from the network element implementing said switch fabric.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service interfaces to said switch fabric with any one of a plurality of application programming interfaces and interfaces to said switch intelligence with a uniform application programming interface.

15. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein each of said plurality of application programming interfaces comprises at least one of a vendor-specific application programming interface or a switch-fabric-specific application programming interface.

16. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-fabric communications into switch-intelligence communications.

17. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said switch-fabric communications are at least one of vendor-specific or switch-fabric-specific.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-intelligence communications into switch-fabric communications.

19. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said switch-fabric communications are at least one of vendor-specific or switch-fabric-specific.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform interface.

21. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and a switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric,

wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates communications defined according to a uniform interface into switch-fabric communications.

22. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a switch intelligence for providing control functions to at least one switch fabric, the switch intelligence comprising:

processing logic configured to:

receive information from the at least one switch fabric, the information including a facility related event associated with a call,

process the received information,

maintain call states in accordance with a call model for at least one party involved in the call, and

provide connection information to the at least one switch fabric for completing the call.

23. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence is one of logically separated or physically separated from said at least one switch fabric, the processing logic being further configured to:

identify at least one point in the call where a telecommunications function is required, and

send a request for the telecommunications function to a processor in response to the identified at least one point in the call.

24. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising:

a processor executing the telecommunications function in response to the request.

25. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:

a switch fabric proxy for providing a plurality of application programming interfaces for communications between the at least one switch fabric and the switch intelligence, wherein each of said plurality of application programming interfaces comprises at least one of a vendor-specific application programming interface or a switch-fabric-specific application programming interface.

26. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence provides control functions to a plurality of switch fabrics.

27. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence further comprises at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service.

28. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service comprises a call segment instance service, the call segment instance service configured to maintain the call states for the at least one party involved in the call.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving switch-fabric communications from a switch-fabric, the switch-fabric communications including a facility related event ~~information~~ associated with a call;

means for processing the switch-fabric communications, wherein the means for processing is configured to maintain call states in accordance with a call model for at least one party involved in the call and generate connection information for completing the call; and

means for translating the connection information into switch-fabric communications for use by a switch fabric.

30. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for translating switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface;

means for processing the switch fabric communications comprising facility related event information associated with a call, the means for processing being configured to:

maintain call states for at least one party involved in the call in accordance with a call model, and

execute the call model to generate connection information for completing the call; and

means for translating the communications defined according to the uniform switch-intelligence interface into switch-fabric communications.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising:

- means for translating communications defined according to the uniform interface into switch-intelligence communications; and
- means for translating switch-intelligence communications into communications defined according to a uniform interface.

32. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

- a switch-fabric proxy service that is capable of at least one of translating switch-fabric communications into switch-intelligence communications, translating the switch-intelligence communications into the switch-fabric communications, translating the switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface, or translating the communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface into the switch-fabric communications; and
- a switch intelligence implemented in at least one network element, the at least one network element being a separate network element from a network element implementing a switch-fabric that is coupled to the switch-fabric proxy service, the switch intelligence being configured to:
 - execute a call model to generate connection information for completing a call corresponding to a request received at a switch fabric,
 - maintain call states for each party involved in the call in accordance with the call model, and

forward the connection information to the switch fabric via the switch-fabric proxy service.

33. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes a normalized interface between the switch fabric and the switch intelligence.

34. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said at least one network element implementing the switch intelligence is one of logically separated or physically separated from the network element implementing the switch fabric and is coupled to the network element implementing the switch fabric via a communications network.

35. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the switch fabric includes said switch-fabric proxy service.

36. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the switch intelligence is further configured to:

maintain the call model, the call model affecting how calls received by the switch fabric will be processed and wherein the call model is modifiable at the switch intelligence without modifying the switch fabric.

37. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes an application programming interface for interfacing with the switch fabric.

38. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said application programming interface is at least one of a vendor-specific interface or a switch-fabric-specific interface.

39. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes an application programming interface for interfacing with the switch-intelligence.

40. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a switch intelligence network element for controlling a switch fabric network element, wherein said switch intelligence network element comprises:

processing logic configured to:

receive notification information comprising a facility related event
~~from the switch fabric network element~~ associated with a call from the switch fabric
network element, and

perform call half processing for at least one party associated with
the call in response to the notification information and in accordance with a call model.

41. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said processing logic is further configured to:

perform the call half processing in accordance with a call model, the call model representing at least one of an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) call model, an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) call model or a call model created by a service provider.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said switch intelligence network element includes at least one of a first application programming interface communicable with a switch-fabric proxy service or a second application programming interface communicable with a feature processor that executes at least one telecommunications function.

43. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising at least one application programming interface communicable between at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service and another of said at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service.

44. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a feature processor for executing at least one telecommunications function; and

switch intelligence configured to:

receive facility related event data associated with a call from a switch fabric,

perform call half processing associated with at least one party to the call in response to the facility related event data and in accordance with a call model, and

provide connection information to an entity that received the call, wherein the connection information identifies physical connections to complete the call, wherein the switch intelligence is implemented in at least one network element, the at least one network element being a separate network element from the entity that received the call.

45. (currently amended) An apparatus for controlling a switch fabric, the apparatus being implemented in at least one network element, the at least one network element being separate from the switch fabric, the apparatus comprising:

logic for processing a facility related event ~~information~~ received from the switch fabric in accordance with a call model,

logic for performing call half processing for at least one party involved in the call in response to the facility related event ~~information~~ and in accordance with the call model, and

logic for forwarding connection information to the at least one switch fabric.

46. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

interface logic including a first interface for communications between the apparatus and the switch fabric.

47. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a call completion device for providing bearer functions, said call completion device performing communications with a switch intelligence that is implemented in a separate network element from said call completion device, the call completion device being configured to:

forward a facility related event associated with a call to the switch intelligence,
and

receive bearer connection information from the switch intelligence in accordance with a call model executed by the switch intelligence.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the switch intelligence comprises a call state model, and wherein the call completion device communicates with the switch intelligence to affect a call state.

49. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the call state is represented in the call state model.

50. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising:

a switch fabric proxy service for providing an application programming interface for communications between the call completion device and the switch intelligence.

51. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

logic configured to receive information from a switch fabric that received a request for making a call, the information comprising a facility related event data;

logic configured to perform call half processing for at least a first party or a second party associated with the call in response to the facility related event data and in accordance with a call model;

logic configured to generate connection information for the entity that received the request; and

logic configured to forward the connection information to the entity that received the request.

52. (canceled)

53. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the apparatus is implemented in a network element that is separate from the entity that received the request.

54. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the logic configured to perform call half processing maintains call states associated with completing the call in accordance with a call model.

55. (canceled)

56. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[55]] 11, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

57. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

58. (canceled)

59. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[58]] 29, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[60]] 40, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

62. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the facility related event information comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.